

D-273

Cokesbury United Methodist Church

Reliance vicinity

1886

Public Worship

While the present Cokesbury Methodist Church dates to 1886, a congregation on this site dates back to the late eighteenth century when a group of trustees, Thomas Hingson, John Elliott, Jacob Wright and Joseph Douglas purchased a one-acre parcel of "Dixons Discovery" for the use of the congregation, which was known at the time as the "Independent Meetinhouse." The Methodist meetinghouse and congregation, however is thought to date from the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The previous Methodist church on the site dated around 1832 and was built on land donated by Amos Vickers. Cokesbury and nearby Wheatley's Church, founded during the late eighteenth century, were the earliest Methodist congregations in the Fork election district. As the population increased throughout the district during the mid to late nineteenth century, members from the Cokesbury church decided to sponsor the construction of a new church in 1874 on a site along the main road connecting Crother's Ferry and Federalsburg. As a more central location on land donated by Tilghman Hackett (See D-271) The new Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church was intended to supplant Cokesbury, however, the plan was not realized as some members refused to leave the older church and burial site. The two congregations worshipped independently, and the Cokesbury membership financed construction of this replacement structure in 1886. The single-story, gable-front frame structure is typically plain and is similar to other chapels in Dorchester County erected during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (See Wheatley's Church, D-754; Antioch M. E. Church, D-241)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-273

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Cokesbury Methodist Episcopal Church
other Cokesbury United Methodist Church

2. Location

street and number Cokesbury Road not for publication
city, town Reliance x vicinity
county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Cokesbury United Methodist Church
street and number telephone
city, town state zip code

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber HD 4 folio 459
city, town Cambridge tax map tax parcel tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

Contributing Resource in National Register District
Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
Recorded by HABS/HAER
Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
district	public	agriculture	Contributing
x building(s)	x private	commerce/trade	1
structure	both	defense	
site		domestic	
object		education	
		funerary	1
		government	
		health care	
		industry	
		landscape	
		recreation/culture	
		x religion	
		social	
		transportation	
		work in progress	
		unknown	
		vacant/not in use	
		other:	
			Noncontributing
			buildings
			sites
			structures
			objects
			Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-273

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Cokesbury Methodist Episcopal Church, stands on the west side of Cokesbury Road and east of Wright's Mill Pond Branch in the Fork Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story frame church, erected in 1886, is supported on a minimal concrete block foundation, and the exterior is clad with aluminum siding over the original weatherboards. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Located across the road is the church cemetery, a large plot of burials dating to the mid nineteenth century.

DESCRIPTION

The Cokesbury Methodist Episcopal Church, now known as the Cokesbury United Methodist Church, stands along Cokesbury Road approximately a mile south of MD Route 362 near Reliance, Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story gable-front frame church, erected in 1886, faces southeast with the roof oriented on a southeast/northwest axis. Supported on a low concrete block foundation, the exterior is clad with aluminum siding and the steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Located across Cokesbury Road is a single-story concrete block church hall and a large burial plot with graves dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

The southeast (main) façade is a single bay wide with a center entrance reached by way of a modern set of steps incorporating a handicapped ramp. A white marble datestone is set in the southeast corner of the foundation and it reads, "Cokesbury M. E. Church, 1886." The entrance bay is marked by replacement doors and a pointed arch recess above which is fitted with a vinyl covered cross. The edge of the roof is finished with a slightly extended eave, enclosed soffit and returns at the base of the roof.

The side elevations are marked by three four-over-four sash windows that are filled with opaque glass. The windows were originally flanked with long louvered shutters, however, they have been removed. Finishing the base of the roof is a boxed cornice.

Extending from the northeast (rear) elevation is a single story apse of lower height than the main block. The side walls of the apse are pierced by narrow single pane sash windows. The edges of the gable roof are trimmed like the main block with slightly extended eaves, enclosed soffits and returns.

The mid twentieth century church hall is a rectangular single-story structure of smooth concrete blocks painted a deep blue color. Adjacent to the church hall is a sizable cemetery with hundreds of burials, primarily from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-273

Name
Continuation Sheet

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8. Significance

Inventory No. D-273

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1886

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

While the present Cokesbury Methodist Church dates to 1886, a congregation on this site dates back to the late eighteenth century when a group of trustees, Thomas Hingson, John Elliott, Jacob Wright and Joseph Douglas purchased a one-acre parcel of "Dixon's Discovery" for the use of the congregation, which was known as the time as the "Independent Meetinghouse."¹ The Methodist meetinghouse and congregation, however, is thought to date from the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The previous Methodist church on the site dated around 1832 and was built on land donated apparently by Amos Vickers.² Cokesbury and nearby Wheatley's Church, founded during the late eighteenth century, were the earliest Methodist congregations in the Fork election district. As the population increased through the district during the mid to late nineteenth century, members from the Cokesbury church decided to sponsor the construction of a new church in 1874 on a site along main road connecting Crotcher's Ferry and Federalsburg. As a more central location, a lot of land was donated by Tilghman Hackett. (See D-271) The new Wesley Methodist Episcopal church was intended to supplant Cokesbury, however that plan was not realized as some members refused to leave the older church and burial site. The two congregations worshipped independently, and the Cokesbury congregation financed the construction of a replacement building in 1886. The single-story gable-front frame structure is typical of rural chapels built throughout Dorchester County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.(See Wheatley's M. E. Church, D-754; Anticoh M. E. Church, D-241)

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, HD 4/459, 27 September 1792.

² E. C. Hallman, *The Garden of Methodism*, Peninsula Annual Conference, p. 304.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

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Name Cokesbury M. E. Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Cokesbury Methodist Church
Cokesbury Road
Galestown vicinity

Dorchester County
Land Record
HD 4/459

John McWilliams and Hopkins Willen

to

9.27.1792

Thomas Hingson, John Elliot, Jacob Wright, and
Joseph Douglas, trustees of the Independent Meetinghouse...all that
part or parcel of a Tract of Land called and known by the name
Dixons Discovery, which Tracts or parcels of Land are bound as
followes....containing one acre of land more or less

L5

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-273

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1 acre
Acreage of historical setting 1 acre
Quadrangle name Sharptown, MD. Quadrangle Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this surveyed property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	2//07/08
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

FORK

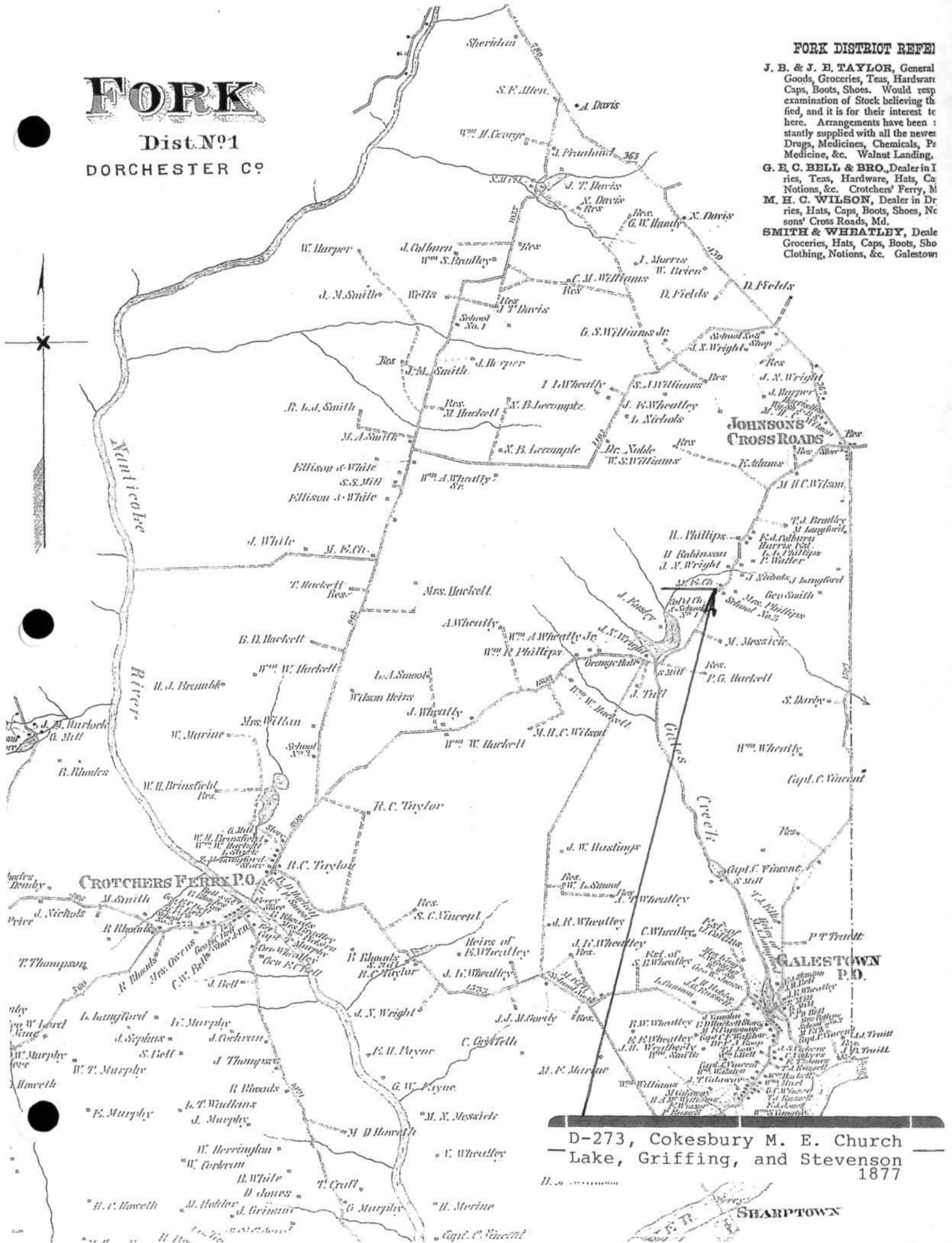
Dist. N^o 1
DORCHESTER C^o

FORK DISTRICT REFER

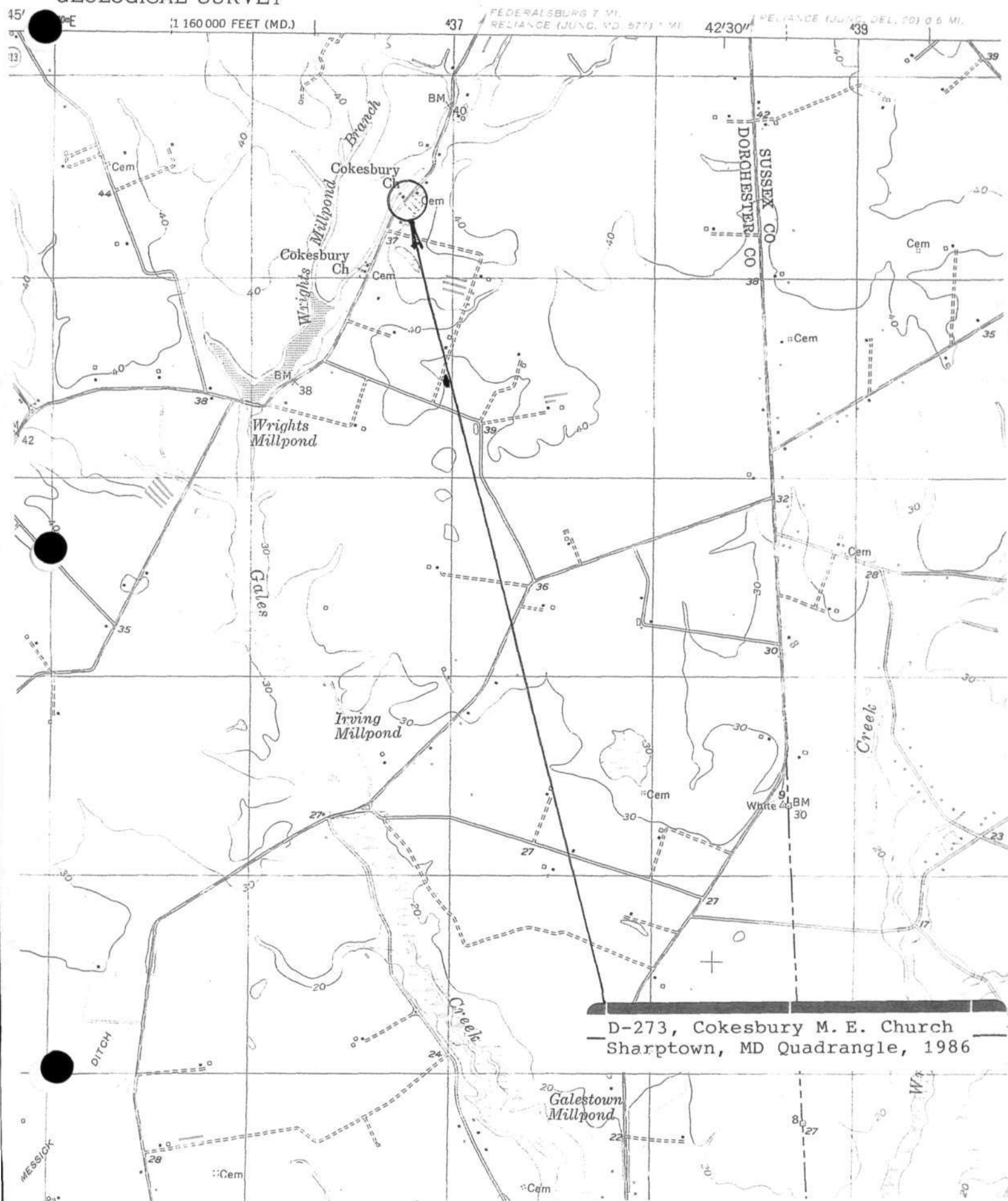
J. B. & J. H. TAYLOR, General Goods, Groceries, Teas, Hardware Caps, Boots, Shoes. Would resp examination of Stock believing th fied, and it is for their interest to here. Arrangements have been : stantly supplied with all the newest Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Po Medicine, &c. Walnut Landing.

G. E. C. BELL & BRO., Dealer in I ries, Teas, Hardware, Hats, Ca Notions, &c. Crotchers' Ferry, M M. H. C. WILSON, Dealer in Dr ries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Ne sons' Cross Roads, Md.

SMITH & WHEATLEY, Deale Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Sho Clothing, Notions, &c. Galestown



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY





D-273

COKESBURY M. E. Church

RELIANCE VIC, DORCHESTER Co., MD.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

2/08, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER

Net 2. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST



D-273

Cokesbury M. E. Church
Rivance vil, Dorchester Co., MD.
Cemetery - Looking Southeast
2/08, PAUL TONART, PHOTOGRAPHER
WEL/MD HISTORICAL TRUST

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
Cokesbury Methodist Church				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
Cokesbury Rd, 1.2 miles south of Md. Rt. 392				
CITY OR TOWN:				
Reliance				
STATE			COUNTY:	
Maryland			Dorchester	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME:				
Cokesbury Methodist Church				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
Seaford			Delaware	19973
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:				
Dorchester County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
High Street				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE	
Cambridge			Maryland	21613
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

It was constructed in 1886, as the corner stone indicated. The corner stone was evidently replaced when the building was installed on its present concrete block foundation. The foundation looks as though it was built in the first quarter of the 20th century. The building is a typical small chapel, three bays deep with a central entrance door. On the gable facade the walls are covered completely with aluminum siding. The covering probably covers up a Miter arch, because there is such an arch above the central door.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The entire structure has been so completely remodeled to render it difficult to interpret, except as a type of building that was being constructed in the latter part of the 19th century, for religious purposes. It is located in a grove of oak trees and across the street is a very large grave yard.

The building is important as a house of worship for the first district residents over the past 90 years.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

June, 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

21401

12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

2421 41

50%

D-273



Cokesbury M.E. Church

D- 273

M. Bourne Nov 1975